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Letter dated 25 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 24 July 2001 on the problems that have recently emerged in the peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

24 July 2001

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses serious concern regarding the disruption, by the Abkhaz side, of the Georgian-Abkhaz Coordinating Council session, scheduled for 17 July 2001 in Tbilisi.

The Abkhaz side has again exhibited its destructive position and reluctance to cooperate, citing as the cause the incident which took place on the territory temporarily beyond the control of the Georgian authorities, where the separatist regime continues to demonstrate its total inability to provide security for the civilian population. The disruption by the Abkhaz side of the Coordinating Council session leads us to conclude that such actions are premeditated, designed to halt the peace process and to further depress the already difficult course of negotiations. Regretfully, these actions on behalf of the separatist regime are becoming routine, causing serious concern on the Georgian side.

At the session of the First Working Group of the Coordinating Council, held after the incident in Sokhumi under the chairmanship of the United Nations Chief Military Observer, the Georgian side once again underscored the necessity of creating a joint action mechanism with the aim of improving the criminal situation and security conditions in the region. However, the Abkhaz side rejected all previously reached agreements and initiatives of the Georgian side.

The Government of Georgia has, on numerous accounts, condemned all acts of violence, which jeopardize and threaten the attainments of the negotiations process. It should be noted that acts of violence take place on the territory de facto controlled by the separatist regime, and particularly, in the security zone, where a number of ethnic Georgians have returned. Despite the presence of the peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the region, the returned population is subjected to continuous violations of their fundamental rights both from criminal elements and the so-called law enforcement agencies of the illegitimate regime.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia deems it necessary to draw the attention of the international community and particularly the participants in the peace process to the inadmissibility of disrupting the negotiations and appeals to the parties involved to make every effort to resume the dialogue between the sides.